



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

SA-04-03



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

Date: March 27, 2003

TO: Facility Safety Heads
Facility Coordinators

FROM: 429/Head, Safety and Facility Assurance Office, OSMA

SUBJECT: Requirement for LaRC Slings and Other Lifting Devices

The purpose of this safety alert is to inform employees of several changes in requirements for lifting devices at LaRC. These changes are in response to the new NASA HQ standard NASA-STD-8719.9, "Standard For Lifting Devices and Equipment" and documented in the next revision of LAPG 1740.2, "Facility Safety Requirements." It shall be the responsibility of Facility Coordinators and Facility Safety Heads to ensure compliance with these new requirements.

The required period between rated load tests has been changed from 5 years to 4 years for all lifting devices except items used for lifting personnel. For these items, the period for a rated load test has been changed to once a year. The rated load is an assigned weight that is the maximum load a lifting device or lifting hardware can operationally handle and maintain.

There have also been several changes to requirements for slings. A sling is defined as the lifting assembly and associated hardware (e.g., shackles) used between the actual object being lifted and the hoisting device hook. New requirements for slings are listed below:

- All slings and associated hardware shall have the rated load clearly identified on the item. For a commercially purchased item, the manufacturer's marking identifying the rated load must be on the item. Examples of marking are raised letters on a shackle or a manufacturer's tag on a sling. Any commercial item without the original manufacturer's identification shall be destroyed and removed from service. Please contact the Safety and Facility Assurance Office (SFAO) or the LaRC Lifting Manager to help determine the required review and/or disposition of any non-commercial sling without a clearly labeled rated load.
- All slings and associated hardware shall be added to the maintenance program (i.e., CMMS) to receive an annual inspection and a rated load test every four years.
- All new slings and associated hardware shall be proof tested at 2.0 times the rated load. Existing slings that were proof tested at 1.25 times the rated load shall be "grandfathered" and do not require proof testing at 2.0.

(This Safety Alert to be posted on Facility Bulletin Boards for a Minimum of 30 days.)

If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Zeitman, LaRC Lifting Manager, at 43371 or Grant Watson, SFAO, at 43069.

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